



YOUTH COMMISSION MINUTES

7:00pm, September 15, 2003
Los Altos Main Library, Program Room
13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos, California 94022

Call to Order

Chairperson Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Garcia, Vice-Chair Stanley, Commissioners Angelo, Bien, Chafey, Elchert, Lorell, Ringen, Sachdeva, Wright, Zwarenstein
Absent: none

Public Comment

none

Approval of Minutes

VICE-CHAIR STANLEY MOVED to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of September 3, 2003. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SACHDEVA AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Discussion

1. **Library Teen Services** – Larry Condit, Teen Services Librarian and Cynthia Wilson, Adult Program Librarian were present. Mention that the Library Commission feels that the library should do more for teens. Chairperson Garcia felt that people his age just use the library for studying and reference.

When Commissioner Bien questioned what age they were trying to reach, Mr. Condit mentioned 7-12 grade.

Vice-Chair Stanley recommended a tutoring program. When Ms. Wilson asked what type of tutoring students would be interested in, Vice-Chair Stanley said every subject and Chairperson Garcia hoped it would be affordable. Vice-Chair Stanley recommended getting tutors from Stanford who would tutor for community service. Commissioner Bien agreed and felt that doing the same thing to get older high school students to tutor for junior high students would also be a good idea. Mr. Condit recommended using Tutor.com.

Commissioner Bien asked what teen events are coming up. October 15 there will be a reading of “The Circuit” by author Francisco Jimenez. The following week is Teen Read Week.

October 21 there will be a performance by the Word-for-Word Theatre Company and there will be open mic poetry reading on October 22.

Chairperson Garcia mentioned that it might be a good idea for the library to call local junior high & high schools to find out what they are assigning and maybe figure out a way to work out an extra credit program with the Library. Commissioner Chafey felt that if students knew they were getting extra credit they would come.

Mr. Condit mentioned that last year there was talk about offering a teen Book of the Month. Chairperson Garcia felt that teens would not be interested in that.

Commissioner Sachdeva felt that if book discussions were based on work assigned at school that more students would come. Mr. Condit said he would rather not do that, he would prefer if it were just for fun. Commissioner Elchert said that many people do not read just for fun. He would be more likely to come if it corresponded to school. When Mr. Condit asked if all schools read the same books, Vice-Chair Stanley thought that even though they read the same books, they were not necessarily at the same time. Commissioner Angelo recommended doing fun reading in the summer months.

Ms. Wilson asked if teens came to the Library for other materials, such as magazines, movies or music. Commissioner Bien felt that there should be an expanded DVD selection. Mr. Condit explained that they have 400 DVDs in their collection, but that 300 circulate daily.

Commissioner Elchert feels the library does the job it is supposed to do.

This ended with Mr. Condit reminding the commission that teens can always suggest specific books, CDs, magazines, etc.

2. **PARC** – PARC Commissioners were unable to attend. Tabled until next meeting.
3. **Asking City Council for funds for Youth Commission** – A letter drafted by Chairperson Garcia to City Council was shown to commission. Will be discussed further at next meeting.
4. **Band Night** – Isaac Smith, Scott Ibaraki & Kevin Fujii attended. They are members of the bands that would play at Band Night. Confirmed bands at this time are Below the Belt, Tears of the Phoenix, The Means and Azura. Commissioner Sachdeva told the group that the scheduled date was the night before SATs. Chairperson Garcia recommended for now keeping the date and checking on the possibility of holding the event on November 11 or November 21.
5. **Youth Commission Procedures** – Discussion on commissioners missing meetings lately and some not turning in projects that have been assigned. COMMISSIONER ELCHERT MOVED to have the following policy: 2 unexcused absences to Youth Commission meetings would result in a commissioner being recommended to City Council to be removed from Youth Commission. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LORELL AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE. COMMISSIONER ELCHERT MOVED to have the following policy: Failure by commissioner to complete assigned tasks would result in commissioner being recommended to City Council to be removed from Youth Commission.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LORELL AND PASSED BY VOICE VOTE (10-1) WITH COMMISSIONER WRIGHT VOTING “NO”. Commissioner Wright felt that it should not be automatic and that some issues could be subject to Commission Review.

6. **Skate Park** – Commissioner Angelo showed the commission the Skate Park poll. COMMISSIONER BIEN MOVED to approve and distribute the skate park poll created by Commissioner Angelo. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR STANLEY AND PASSED BY VOICE VOTE (8-2) WITH COMMISSIONERS LORELL & ZWARENSTEIN VOTING “NO”. Commissioners Lorell & Zwarenstein were unhappy with the way that some of the wording was used on the poll.

OTHER MATTERS

Commissioner Bien attended the August 26, 2003 City Council Meeting. Gave commission a brief report.

Chairperson Garcia was unable to attend the September 9, 2003 City Council Meeting.

Commissioner Chafey will be attending the September 23, 2003 City Council Meeting. Vice Chair-Stanley will be attending the October 14, 2003 City Council Meeting. Commissioner Sachdeva will be attending the October 28, 2003 City Council Meeting.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.